

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11

RSR-01 /150 W

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R 161445Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1186

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3219

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3839

E.O. 11652: GDS12/31/79

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 14

REF: STATE 160288

SUMMARY. AT AUGUST 14 MEETING, WORKING GROUP: DEBATED ITS FUTURE WORK PROGRAM; HELD FURTHER, BRIEF DISCUSSION ON NETHERLANDS PAPER ON CONSTRAINTS; HEARD STATUS REPORT ON DATA COMPILATION, DURING WHICH IMS PROPOSED WG USE HIGHER FIGURE FOR SOVIET MANPOWER IN THE GUKDELINES AREA; HEARD ORAL REPORT ON TACAIR ACTIVITIES; RECEIVED UK PAPER ON VERIFICATION; HELD FIRST DISCUSSION OF SHAPE'S ASSESMENT OF US PAPER OF APRIL 30; AND, HEARD INITIAL COMMENTS ON UK PAPER ON COMBAT CAPABILITY. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEXT WG MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR AUG 22. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (ADM MINTER) OPENED MEETING BY INVITING COMMENTS
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ON WORKING GROUP WORK PROGRAM (TEXT IN SEPTTEL) AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SPC DISCUSSION OF AUGUST 9 (USNATO 3784) HAD GIVEN THE WG A MANDATE TO TAILOR CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION MEASURES TO REDUCTION OPTIONS IN EACH OF THE THREE

SUBSTANTIVE MBFR PAPERS (BELGIAN OF JULY 20, US OF JULY 27, AND UK OF JULY 30).

2. UK (GEN LLOYD) PROPOSED THAT WG SHOULD FIRST EXAMINE CONSTRAINTS IN US PAPER THEN DETERMINE WHAT CONSTRAINTS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO OPTIONS. NOTING THE ABSENCE OF A POLITICAL DECISION ON THE WG'S REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (AC/276-D(72)4), HE SUGGESTED THAT WG ASSUME THAT MEASURES THEREIN WERE VALID AND THAT MEASURES IN THAT DOCUMENT COULD BE MODIFIED FOR WG WORK, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DETAILED SINCE THE FINAL WG MEASURES WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 7.

3. CHAIRMAN CONFIRMED VALIDITY OF PREVIOUS WORK AND AGREED THAT WG PRODUCT SHOULD NOT GO INTO GREAT DETAIL.

4. US (RING) DREW ON MATERIAL IN STATE 157092 AND PARA 2 REFTEL AND CRITICIZED STAFF GROUP'S WORK PROGRAM AS DEPARTING SUBSTANTIALLY FROM MANDATES AGREED BY EITHER THE COUNCIL OR SPC. HE RECALLED THAT THE SPC ON AUGUST 9 HAD AGREED TO THE FRG WORK PROGRAM FOR THE WG AND THAT THE FRG WORK PROGRAM HAD PROPOSED THAT THE WG SHOULD EXAMINE SPECIFIC MEASURES, NOT INCLUDING REDUCTION OPTIONS THEMSELVES, IN THE US PAPER OF JULY 27. YET THE WORK PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE STAFF GROUP FOCUSED ON THE REDUCTION OPTIONS AND PROPOSED THAT THE WG DEVISE MEASURES THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY REDUCTIONS. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THE WG HAD A MANDATE TO EXAMINE SHAPE'S MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE US PAPER OF APRIL 30, HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT HAD A MANDATE TO UNDERTAKE ITS OWN MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE REDUCTION OPTION IN THE US PAPER OF JULY 27. FINALLY, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE WG WAS AUTHORIZED TO EXAMINE THE LIKELY DIRECTION OF SOVIET INITIATIVES AND TO DEVISE OPTIONS AND ARGUMENTS TO COUNTER SUCH APPROACHES.

5. CHAIRMAN DID NOT CONSIDER THAT WG WAS REVIEWING OPTIONS; HE HAD HOPED THAT THE WG COULD MAKE USE OF ITS TIME TO PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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POSE CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION MEASURES. HE EXPLAINED THAT AT SPC MEETING AUGUST 9, CANADIAN REP HAD PROPOSED THAT WG REVIEW SUCH MEASURES IN ALL THREE SUBSTANTIVE PAPERS AND THAT THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS.

6. BELGIUM (BURNY) SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN BUT RECALLED THAT SPC AUGUST 13 (SEPTEL) HAD DECIDED THAT WG SHOULD NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH SOVIET ATTITUDES.

7. CANADA (BECKETT) SAID HIS DELEGATION HAD HOPED THAT THE WG WOULD RESPOND TO LAST WEEK'S SPC DIRECTIVE AND FOCUS ON DATA AND COMBAT CAPABILITY.

8. CHAIRMAN BELIEVED STAFF GROUP'S WORK PROGRAM WAS A NATURAL FALL OUT OF THE AUGUST 9 SPC MEETING. SHAPE, UK, AND NETHERLANDS REPS CONCURRED, ALTHOUGH THE UK REP COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE WG REPORTING ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NC 14/3 AND THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD OF A COMMON CEILING OPTION AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE WORDING FOR THE WORK PROGRAM.

9. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED HE TAKE UP THE US POSITION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPC AND THE US MISSION ON AN URGENT BASIS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WG'S MANDATE.

10. UK AND FRG (ROSSBACH) SUPPORTED NETHERLANDS PAPER ON CONSTRAINTS (AC/276-WP(73)20).

11. STAFF GROUP GAVE ORAL REPORT ON DATA, AFTER WHICH UK REP EXPRESSED CONTINUING CONCERN OVER DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN US DATA IN JULY 27 PAPER AND NATO DATA.

12. IMS INTELLIGENCE DIVISION REP SUGGESTED THAT ON A PRE-LIMINARY AND INTERIM BASIS, THE WG USE THE MANPOWER FIGURES IN COLUMN (2) OF AC/276-WP(73)4, PART 3, FOR SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN THE NATO GUIDELINES AREA, PENDING THE RESULTS OF A SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED THIS FALL. THE IMPACT OF USING SUCH FIGURES WOULD RAISE THE NUMBER OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE NGA FROM 413,000 TO 435,000.

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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13. THE FRG REP PREFERRED TO STAY WITH NATO-AGREED FIGURES AND AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE CONFERENCE. THE SHAPE REP RESERVED ON THE IMS PROPOSAL.

14. CHAIRMAN COMMENDED IMS SUGGESTION TO WG AND ASKED REPS TO SEEK NATIONAL POSITIONS. COMMENT: PROPOSAL WOULD BRING NATO FIGURES TOWARD FIGURE OF 450,000 IN OUR JULY 27 PAPER AND WE RECOMMEND ITS ACCEPTANCE ON AN INTERIM BASIS. END COMMENT.

15. STAFF GROUP GAVE ORAL REPORT ON TACAIR FORECAST WHICH PARALLELED USNATO 3783.

16. UK REP CIRCULATED NOTE ON VERIFICATION (SEPTTEL).

17. AT BEGINNING OF AFTERNOON SESSION, CHAIRMAN SAID HE HAD TALKED TO CHAIRMAN, SPC WHO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH USNATO CONCERNING WG'S WORK PROGRAM. HE CIRCULATED FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSED LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD REPLACE PARAS 1, 2 AND 5 OF STAFF GROUP'S WORK PROGRAM (SEPTTEL).

QUOTE: EXAMINATION OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE CONSTRAINTS AND/OR NON-CIRCUMVENTION AS WELL AS OF THE VERIFICATION MEASURES FOR THE SPECIFIC REDUCTION OPTIONS OUTLINED IN THE BELGIAN, UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM PAPERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SHAPE'S EXISTING AND FORTHCOMING ASSESSMENTS, AGAINST THE CONTINGENCY THAT THESE OPTIONS ARE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL. END QUOTE.

18. WG, INCLUDING US REP AD REFERENDUM, AGREED TO ABOVE LANGUAGE.

19. US REP THEN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF PARA 3 OF STAFF GROUP'S WORK PROGRAM AND HOW IT DIFFERED FROM WG EXAMINATION OF SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT. CHAIRMAN RECALLED UK SUGGESTION THAT STAFF GROUP "COORDINATE NATIONAL COMMENTS ON" VICE "EXAMINE AND REPORT URGENTLY ON"; HE RECALLED THAT THE FRG HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR NATIONAL COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT DURING AN SPC MEETING. US REP SAID HIS AGREEMENT TO THIS TASK WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION. COMMENT: SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING, WE DISCUSSED THIS WITH UK REP WHO UNDERSTOOD HIS AGREEMENT TO BE THAT STAFF GROUP WOULD "COORDINATE NATIONAL COMMENTS ON SHAPE'S MILITARY ASSESSMENTS OF SUBSTANTIVE ALLIED PROPOSALS" AS THEY PERTAINED TO MC 14/3 AND THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD. WE PASSED THIS INFO TO STAFF GROUP WHICH WILL UNDERTAKE TO SORT OUT THE ISSUE AND CIRCULATE A NEW DRAFT OF A WORK PROGRAM AUGUST 16. END COMMENT.

20. CHAIRMAN THEN ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT

OF THE US PAPER OF APRIL 30, NOTING THAT THE CONSIDERED THAT
IT WAS STILL RELEVANT TO THE BELGIAN PAPER OF JULY 20 AND
THE US PAPER OF JULY 27.

21. UK REP WELCOMED PAPER BUT CRITICIZED OVER-RELIANCE OF ASSESS-
MENT ON COLLATERAL CONSTRAINTS AND ON ESSENTIALITY FOR OVERT
INSPECTION. CANADIAN REP CONCURRED.

2. FRG REP GENERALLY SUPPORTED SHAPE ASSESSMENT, BUT
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CRITICIZED OVER-RELIANCE ON CONSTRAINTS TO OFFSET ASYMMETRIES.

23. NETHERLANDS REP CONCURRED WITH GREAT MAJORITY OF ASSESS-
MENT BUT BELIEVED THAT NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION MIGHT
BE ADEQUATE FOR FIRST PHASE OF REDUCTIONS IF THOSE REDUC-
TIONS WERE CONFINED TO SOVIET AND US FORCES.

24. CHAIRMAN RAISED UK PAPER ON COMBAT CAPABILITY AND WG
HEARD UNINSTRUCTED, PERSONAL COMMENTS. US DID NOT COMMENT.

25. UK REP AS SG CHAIRMAN SCHEDULED MEETING OF SUB-GROUP ON VER-
IFICATION FOR AUGUST 21 TO CONSIDER UK PAPER (SEPTEL).

26. CHAIRMAN SCHEDULED MEETING OF WG FOR AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS
UK PAPER ON COMBAT CAPABILITY (FIRST PRIORITY), REVISED
WORK PROGRAM FOR WG, AND SHAPE ASSESSMENT ON US APRIL 30
PAPER, AND IMS PROPOSAL TO USE HIGHER FIGURE FOR SOVIET MANPOWER
IN THE GUIDELINES AREA.
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